

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35, 38, 39, 45, and 47 have been amended and claims 2, 4, 9, 11, 18, 20, 22, 27, 32, 34, 42, 48, 49, and 51-53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 54-58 have been added to more fully claim the subject matter of the instant application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, and notice of such is solicited. Currently, claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28-31, 33, 35-41, 43-47, 50, and 54-58 are pending of which claims 1, 8, 16, 25, 31, 39, 45, and 47 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowability of claims 4, 5, 11, 20, 27, 34, 42, 45, and 49 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of the amendments presented above, Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance, and formal notice of such is solicited.

Claim 22 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, as the same subject matter is recited in claim 21. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 14, 16, 17, 24, 31, 37, 39, and 51 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Blair et al (WO 97/27692). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 in view of Lyon (U.S. Patent No. 5,892,924). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 and Lyon '924 in view of Cisneros (U.S. Patent No. 5,130,984). Claims 6, 13, 36, and 44 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 in view of Roy (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,080). Claims 7, 39, and 46 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 in view of Ankey (U.S. Patent No. 5,113,499). Claims 9, 12, 18, 23, 32, 35, 40, 43, and 52 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 in view of Cisneros '984. Claims 10, 19, 33, 41, and 53 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 and Cisneros '984 in view of Lyon '924. Claims 15, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692. Claims 25, 29, 30, and 47 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable

over Blair '692 in view of Movshovich (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,425). Claims 26 and 48 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692, Movshovich '425, Cisneros '984 in view of Lyon '924. Claims 28 and 50 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Blair '692 and Movshovich '425 in view of Roy '080. These rejections are moot in view of the above amendments to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that all pending claims, claims 3, 5-8, 10, 12-17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28-31, 33, 35-41, 43-47, 50, and 54-58, are in condition for allowance, and formal notice of such is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Filed concurrently herewith is a Petition (with payment) for an Extension of Time of One month. Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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